



FEMA

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

FEMA Corps – AmeriCorps in Action FAQ for Partners and Organizations

What is FEMA Corps?

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) joined forces to establish a FEMA-devoted division of 1,600 service corps members within AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) solely dedicated to disaster readiness, response, and recovery.

FEMA Corps members serve a 10-month term, with an option to apply for a second 10-month term of service. NCCC- FEMA Corps is a full-time, team-based, residential service program for men and women, between the age of 18 to 24, operated in the same campus structure as AmeriCorps NCCC. FEMA Corps members are assigned to one of five NCCC campuses, located in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Vinton, Iowa. FEMA Corps members receive a living allowance of approximately \$4,000 for the 10 months of service (about \$200 every two weeks before taxes), housing, meals, limited medical benefits, up to \$400 a month for childcare, if necessary, member uniforms, and a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of the program.

FEMA Corps members are national service participants and will provide support in areas ranging from working directly with disaster survivors to supporting disaster recovery centers to sharing valuable disaster readiness and mitigation information with the public.

Who is paying for this new division within the NCCC?

FEMA Corps is fully funded by FEMA to include the living allowance, education award, startup costs, staffing, and all other associated costs.

Will the 1,600 FEMA Corps members be in addition to the 1,200 annual traditional AmeriCorps NCCC members?

Yes. This will be a new division within the NCCC. 1,600 members will be in the FEMA Corps program and 1,200 members will be in the NCCC traditional program.

What will FEMA Corps members do?

In their 10-month term of service, the FEMA Corps members will focus on disaster readiness and recovery activities, providing support in the following areas (this is a sampling of the tasks):

- Assisting in individual applicant case work and providing information to individuals and families on available resources
- Assist in coordinating management report and tracking the delivery of assistance to individuals and families
- Standing up and coordinating Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC's)
- Supporting FEMA Joint Field Offices
- As requested, assist states with mass evacuations
- Assist in inspecting damages, identifying community needs, and coordinating recovery cost estimates.

These vital services provided by FEMA Corps members help with the recovery time for individuals, families and communities following the initial impact of a disaster which sometimes can span up to three years or more.

The FEMA Corps members will be deployed to FEMA at all times and all assignments will be associated with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended. These members will not deploy to projects in the same manner as the traditional NCCC program.

How will FEMA Corps teams be deployed for a FEMA assignment?

CNCS will deploy FEMA Corps members in teams directly in response to FEMA requests for deployment and in accordance with NCCC procedures. FEMA Corps members will serve on work assignments from FEMA. FEMA Corps Team Leaders will be responsible for the supervision of FEMA Corps members on FEMA assignments.

How will FEMA Corps be marketed to the public?

FEMA Corps is marketed as a division within AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC).

What are the qualifications for FEMA Corps members?

FEMA Corps members will:

- Work collaboratively in a team-based environment, which includes considering team needs and values at all times.
- Interact with others in a professional manner.
- Express one's needs and be supportive to the needs of others.
- Develop respectful relationships with other people from diverse backgrounds.
- Manage and cope effectively in high-stress environments.
- Engage in effective conflict resolution and problem solving which includes the appropriate management of anger.

How will the FEMA Corps members obtain the skills and expertise to perform FEMA Corps assignments?

NCCC and FEMA will provide the training, experience, and educational opportunities to prepare thousands of FEMA Corps members with the skills needed to do the service with FEMA. This national service experience will also help prepare FEMA Corps members for possible careers in emergency management and related fields well beyond their term of service.

Will this partnership duplicate existing services that the NCCC and FEMA already provide?

No. For FEMA this partnership will augment the existing Reservist program. For CNCS and the NCCC, the level of engagement within the disaster services area will increase. The 1,600-member program will not duplicate the important relief and recovery work already performed by the current NCCC program and AmeriCorps grantees through FEMA mission assignments and requests from community agencies. Members participating in the FEMA-funded FEMA Corps program will focus their efforts on tasks not currently part of the NCCC portfolio of service.

Is a FEMA Corps member's work assignment considered a job for FEMA?

No. A FEMA Corps member is a national service participant and CNCS will deploy FEMA Corps teams in response to FEMA's needs. FEMA will reinforce its current disaster workforce through the funding of this national service program. This program and partnership will strengthen and augment FEMA's

existing workforce. FEMA has a cadre of Reservists which FEMA will continue to call upon. The NCCC members will complement them.

How will the FEMA partnership impact the traditional NCCC program?

It will complement and expand the NCCC engagement in communities across the country by partnering through FEMA with community organizations and providing immediate assistance after a disaster strikes. It will also increase by 1,600 members and provide the opportunity for young Americans to serve their fellow citizens.

Any national, community, and faith-based non-profit organization, municipal and state government, federal agency or program, city, state and national park, or school throughout the United States and US territories can still apply to receive AmeriCorps NCCC resources. Traditional NCCC teams will continue to serve communities in the areas of infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, urban and rural development and natural and other disasters. Interested organizations can learn more about becoming an AmeriCorps NCCC project sponsor at www.americorps.gov/nccc.

Will FEMA Corps impact the funding of State Commissions, CNCS grantees, or other non-profit organizations?

All funding for the FEMA Corps comes directly from FEMA. This partnership does not take any funding away from Commissions, CNCS grantees, or other non-profit organizations. These entities will continue to be involved in disasters through the Mission Assignments and Cooperative Agreements through the CNCS Disaster Services Unit.

How can organizations and agencies request the FEMA Corps resource?

FEMA is the only project sponsor for FEMA Corps and all service projects and work assignments will come directly from FEMA. FEMA Corps members, led by their team leaders, will at all times, work on tasks assigned and overseen by FEMA and will not be deployable in the same manner of the traditional NCCC program. The FEMA Corps members will be engaged in specific technical tasks, and deviations from these tasks will be allowed on a very limited basis only after all traditional resources have been exhausted.

How can a young person apply to be a FEMA Corps Member?

The age requirement for FEMA Corps members is between 18-24 years. Applicants will apply for this summer's first FEMA Corps term through the standard NCCC Fall 2012 application. Applicants will need to create an application through the My AmeriCorps website, <https://my.americorps.gov> and then submit that application to the NCCC Fall 2012 listing. Once an application has been submitted, within 7- 10 business days, an acknowledgement packet will be in the mail with information regarding the next steps.

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